

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph on page 1, starting on line 8, with the following amended paragraph:

A) This application is related to Provisional Application 60/172,105, filed on December 23, 1999. This application is also related to Provisional Application ~~60/####,###~~ 60/250,841, filed on December 1, 2000. Under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e)(1), this application claims benefit of said Provisional Applications.

Please replace the paragraph on page 16, starting on line 24, with the following amended paragraph:

A² Subsequent to filing, ZCYTO18 was annotated in the literature as IL-TIF. ~~Over~~Moreover, receptors for ZCYTO18 were identified comprising zcytor16 (SEQ ID NO:32, and SEQ ID NO:33) ((commonly owned PCT International Application No. [#####]PCT US00/32703)), zcytor11 (SEQ ID NO:18, and SEQ ID NO:19) (Commonly owned US Patent No. 5,965,704), and CRF2-4 (Genbank Accession No. Z17227). Moreover several ZCYTO18 responsive cell lines have been identified (Dumontier et al., J. Immunol. 164:1814-1819, 2000; Dumoutier, L. et al., Proc. Nat'l. Acad. Sci. 97:10144-10149, 2000; Xie MH et al., J. Biol. Chem. 275: 31335-31339, 2000; Kotenko SV et al., JBC in press), as well as those that express the ZCYTO18 receptor subunit zcytor11. Moreover, commonly owned zcytor16 receptor was shown to bind ZCYTO18 and antagonize its activity (SEQ ID NO:3) (commonly owned PCT International Application No. [#####]PCT US00/32703); the mouse IL-TIF (ZCYTO18) sequence is shown in Dumontier et al., J. Immunol. 164:1814-1819, 2000), and was independently cloned, designated, mouse ZCYTO18 herein, and is shown in SEQ ID NO:37 and corresponding plypeptide sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:38. Moreover, commonly owned zcytor11 (US Patent No. 5,965,704) and CRF2-4 receptor also bind ZCYTO18 (See, WIPO publication WO 00/24758; Dumontier et al., J. Immunol. 164:1814-1819, 2000; Spencer, SD et al., J. Exp. Med. 187:571-578, 1998; Gibbs, VC and Pennica Gene 186:97-101, 1997

A² (CRF2-4 cDNA); Xie, MH et al., J. Biol. Chem. 275: 31335-31339, 2000; and Kotenko, SV et al., J. Biol. Chem. manuscript in press M007837200). Moreover, IL-10 β receptor may be involved as a receptor for ZCYTO18, and it is believed to be synonymous with CRF2-4 (Dumoutier, L. et al., Proc. Nat'l. Acad. Sci. 97:10144-10149, 2000; Liu Y et al, J Immunol. 152: 1821-1829, 1994 (IL-10R cDNA). These receptors are discussed herein in relation to the uses of ZCTYTO18.

Please replace the paragraph on page 104, starting on line 15, with the following amended paragraph:

A³ Commonly owned, human zcytor16 (SEQ ID NO:32, and SEQ ID NO:33) (PCT International Application No. [#####]PCT US00/32703) is a naturally-expressed soluble receptor antagonist of ZCYTO18. Northern blot analysis was performed using Human Multiple Tissue Northern Blots I, II, III (Clontech) and an in house generated U-937 northern blot. U-937 is a human promonocytic blast cell line. The cDNA probe was generated using oligos ZC25,963 (SEQ ID NO:24) and ZC28,354 (SEQ ID NO:25). The PCR conditions were as follows: 94° for 1 minute; 30 cycles of 94°, 15 seconds; 60°, 30 seconds; 72°, 30 seconds and a final extension for 5 minutes at 72°. The 364 bp product was gel purified by gel electrophoresis on a 1% TBE gel and the band was excised with a razor blade. The cDNA was extracted from the agarose using the QIAquick Gel Extraction Kit (Qiagen). 94 ng of this fragment was radioactively labeled with ³²P-dCTP using Rediprime II (Amersham), a random prime labeling system, according to the manufacturer's specifications. Unincorporated radioactivity was removed using a Nuc-Trap column (Stratagene) according to manufacturer's instructions. Blots were prehybridized at 65° for 3 hours in ExpressHyb (Clontech) solution. Blots were hybridized overnight at 65° in Expresshyb solution containing 1.0 x 10⁶ cpm/ml of labeled probe, 0.1 mg/ml of salmon sperm DNA and 0.5 μ g/ml of human cot-1 DNA. Blots were washed in 2 x SSC, 0.1% SDS at room temperature with several solution changes then washed in 0.1 x SSC. 0.1% SDS at 55° for 30 minutes twice. Transcripts of approximately 1.6 kb and 3.0 kb size were

3 detected in spleen and placenta, but not other tissues examined. The same sized transcripts plus
A an additional approximate 1.2 kb transcript was detected in U-937 cell line.
